

THE
GLAD
HIGHWAY


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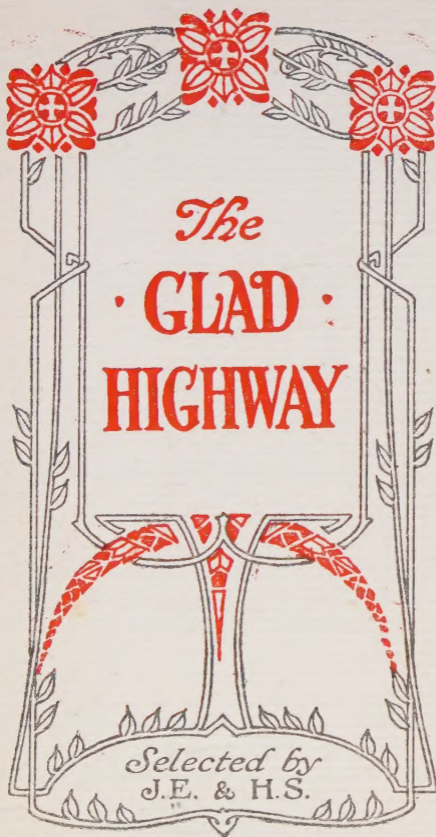
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THE GLAD HIGHWAY







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Things that Matter



DUTY WELL DONE.

Ask God to show you your duty, and then do that duty well, and from that point you mount to the very peak of vision.



Our opinions are a good deal like the time of our clocks, no two just alike, yet we all follow and keep our own.



There is not so much pleasure in the world that we can afford to spare one harmless source of laughter.



Thought is always beautiful when true to the thing and to the thinker. The discords are in our ears, not in nature.

THE PATH OF HABIT

Habit may be illustrated by a beaten path; as the traveller is apt to fall into and follow this, so the thoughts and feelings are likely to pursue the track which they have often followed before. As the stream gradually wears the channel deeper in which it runs, and thus becomes more surely bound to its accustomed course; so the current of the mind and heart grows more and more restricted to the course which habit has taught them to flow. It is these intellectual and moral habits that form many peculiarities of character, and chiefly distinguish one individual from another. They are therefore of the utmost importance.

S. G. GOODRICH.



A life is beautiful only as it is useful. There is no beauty in the life that is lived for self alone, and has no thought for others.



We may have very spacious hearts if only we are sympathetic.

T. T. LYNCH.

THE ORIGINAL OF MUSIC

"The morning stars sang together, and the sons of God shouted for joy," because the Chief Singer, "the Word of God," had sung Himself into the soul of their being. Consider the heavens! Are they not the notes of the Divine Composer? Were they not sung into arrangement? We ought not to be surprised therefore that the Son of God is the Reconciler and "able to subdue all things unto Himself." He will out-sing the mad effort of divided and contending powers, and sing back His Father's order. He is Himself His Father's order and the very Original of Music.

DR. PULSFORD.



To forget a debt is not to cancel it. \



It is not knowledge that we chiefly
need,

Though knowledge sanctified by
Thee is dear: ✓

It is the will and power to love
indeed;

It is the constant thought that God
is near.

PERFECTION IN ALL

Aim at perfection in everything, though in most things it is unattainable; however, they who aim at it, and persevere, will come much nearer to it, than those whose laziness and despondency make them give it up as unattainable.

LORD CHESTERFIELD.



The happiest heart that ever beat
Was in some quiet breast,
That found the common daylight
sweet,
And left to Heaven the rest.



Love God, and you will throw off the love of self; love God, and you will love all that He gives you to love for love of Him.

FENELON.



We should make the same use of a book that the bee does of a flower; she steals sweets from it, but does not injure it.

C. C. COLTON.

NATURE'S CALM

The most ruffled temper, when emerging from the town, will subside into a calm at the sight of beautiful scenery in the twilight of a fine evening; it is then that the spirit of peace settles upon the heart, unfetters the thoughts, and elevates the soul to the Creator; it is then that we behold the Parent of the universe in His works; we see His grandeur in earth, sea, sky; we feel His affection in the emotions which they raise, and half mortal, half etherealised, forget where we are in the anticipation of what that world must be of which this lovely earth is merely the shadow.



God is greater than all our conceptions of Him, and they one by one give way to make room for a fuller and better thought.

R. WHITWELL.



Every day hath its night,
Every night its morn;
Through dark and bright
Winged hours are born.

TENNYSON.

THE ANCHOR

Here is the great last certainty. Be sure of God. With simple, loving worship, by continual obedience, by purifying yourself even as He is pure, creep close to Him, keep close to Him. Be sure of God, and nothing can overthrow or drown you.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.



Kindness draws out the better part of every nature—disarming resistance, dissipating angry passions, and melting the hardest heart.



How many there are who would be unhappy if they could not find something to be miserable about.



The succession and contrast of the seasons give scope to that care and foresight, diligence and industry, which are essential to the dignity and enjoyments of human beings, whose happiness is connected with the exertion of their faculties.

M. SEVERANCE.

THE POWER OF LOVE

You may hammer ice on an anvil, or bray it in a mortar. What then? It is pounded ice still, except for the little portion melted by heat of percussion, and it will soon all congeal again. Melt it in the sun, and it flows down in sweet water, which mirrors that light which loosed its bonds of cold. So hammer away at unbelief with your logical sledge-hammers, and you will change its shape, perhaps; but it is none the less unbelief because you have ground it to powder. It is a mightier agent that must melt it—the fire of God's love, brought close by a will itself ablaze with the sacred flow.

A. MACLAREN.



He who stands high is seen from afar.



Joy in one's work is the consummate tool without which the work may be done indeed, but without which the work will always be done slowly, clumsily, and without its finest perfectness.

PHILLIPS BROOKS.

IN TIME OF TROUBLE

Rejoice when thou dost see
God take thy things from thee;
Ay—the greater the loss,
And the heavier the cross,
The greater the gain shall be.
When thy props are laid low,
And friend turns to foe,
’Tis but because now
God seeth that thou
No longer on crutches must go—
Each here
Whom He setteth alone,
He Himself is most near.



If, when morning breaks,
Clouds obscure the sky,
Fear not! God who makes
Clouds, has sunshine nigh.



Our greatness is determined by our ideas, and our ideas by our impression. Small ideas can never make a great man, nor can great ideas grow out of small impressions. Large plants must have a deep soil. Superficial impressions can never produce great thoughts.

DO IT NOW!

We pass this way but once!
The ripened harvest white
Has waited long
The reaper's song:
Thrust in thy sickle bright.
We pass this way but once!
There's work divine for thee:
On every hand
The needy stand
And sigh for sympathy.



We are tied to our duty like horses with a very long tether. So long as we are contented with the allotted area, we are not troubled with the rope; but when we try to escape into the surrounding thicket, we are vexed with all kinds of entanglements.



The Bible is a rock of diamonds, a chain of pearls, the sword of the spirit; a chart by which the Christian sails to eternity; the map by which he daily walks; the sundial by which he sets his life; the balance on which he weighs his actions.

T. WATSON.

LITTLE THINGS OF GREAT SERVICE

There is a sublimity in little things. As the sun can be reflected by a dewdrop, so the whole infinitude of God's power and wisdom may shine up out of the arrangements which God has made for the comfort, progress, discipline, and defence of His people.

DR. PARKER.



The only cure for indolence is work; the only cure for selfishness is sacrifice; the only cure for unbelief is to shake off the ague of doubt by doing Christ's bidding; the only cure for timidity is to plunge into some dreaded duty before the chill comes on.

S. RUTHERFORD.



You never miss an opportunity of giving innocent pleasure, or helping another soul on the path to God, but you are taking away from yourselves forever what might have been a happy memory, and leaving in its place pain or remorse.

F. P. COBBE.

THINGS THAT NEVER DIE

The pure, the bright, the beautiful,
That stirred our hearts in youth,
The impulses to wordless prayer,
The dreams of love and truth;
The longings after something lost,
The spirit's yearning cry,
The strivings after better hopes—
These things can never die.

The timid hand stretched forth to aid
A brother in his need,
A kindly word in grief's dark hour
That proves a friend indeed;
The plea for mercy softly breathed,
When justice threatens high
The sorrow of a contrite heart—
These things shall never die.

The memory of a clasping hand,
The pressure of a kiss,
And all the trifles, sweet and frail,
That make up love's first bliss;
If with a firm, unchanging faith,
And holy trust and high,
Those hands have clasped, those lips
have met—
These things shall never die.



Ask no man to do for you more than
you are willing to do for him.

JESUS, MY SAVIOUR

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine, was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here, I fall, my Saviour!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favour,
Vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

The joy can ne'er be spoken,
Above all joys beside,
When in Thy body broken
I thus with safety hide;
My Lord of life, desiring
Thy glory now to see.
Beside the cross expiring,
I'd breathe my soul to Thee.



The silence of the tongue is oftentimes the eloquence of the heart.



In my garden I spend my days, in
my library I spend my nights. My
interests are divided between my
geraniums and my books. With the
flower I am in the Present; with the
book I am in the Past.

A. SOUTH.

SPRING

Now is the time for those who wisdom love,
Who love to walk in Virtue's flowery road,
Along the lovely paths of Spring to rove,
And follow Nature up to Nature's God.



Let your hands and your conscience
be honest and clean;
Scorn to touch or to think of the
thing that is mean,
But hold on to the pure and the
right with firm grip,
And though hard be the task, "Keep
a firm upper lip."

P. CAREY.



Upon the valley's lap
The liberal morning throws
A thousand drops of dew
To wake a single rose.

W. C. BRYANT.



There is but one language taught in
the school of Christ, and that is the
language of love.

THWARTED PLANS

I would have gone; God bade me
stay;

I would have worked; God bade
me rest.

He broke my will from day to day,
He read my yearnings unexpressed.
And said them nay.

Now I would stay; God bids me go;
Now I would rest; God bids me
work.

He breaks my heart tossed to and fro,
My soul is wrung with doubts that
lurk

And vex it so.

I go, Lord, where Thou sendest me;
Day after day I plod and moil;
But Christ, my God, when will it be
That I may let alone my toil
And rest with Thee?

C. ROSSETTI.



Friendship is no plant of hasty
growth.

Though rooted in esteem's deep fixèd
soil,

The gradual culture of kind inter-
course

Must bring it to perfection.

STABILITY OF NATURE

We abolish many things, good and evil, wisely and foolishly, in these fast-going times; but, happily for us, we cannot abolish the blue sky, and the green sea, and the white foam, and the everlasting hills, and the rivers which flow out of their bosoms.

C. KINGSLEY.



Imagination is but another name for reason in her most exalted mood.



Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.

S. SMILES.



All lovely things are also necessary; the wild flower by the wayside as well as the tended, corn and the wild birds and creatures of the forest as well as the tended cattle, because man does not live by bread alone, but also by the desert manna, by every wondrous word and unknowable work of God.

J. RUSKIN.

GOD'S REPAYMENT

Is thy cruse of comfort wasting?
Rise and share it with another;
And through all the years of famine
It will serve thee and thy brother.

Love divine will fill the storehouse,
And thy handful still renew;
Scanty fare for one will prove
A royal feast for two.

For the heart grows rich by giving,
All its wealth is living grain;
Seeds that mildew in the garner,
Scattered, fill with gold the plain.



Be not simply good, be good for
something.



Throw your actions into perspective.



Prayers of love like rain-drops fall,
Tears of pity are cooling dew;
And dear to the heart of our Lord
are all
Who suffer like Him in the good
they do.

J. G. WHITTIER.

A LOVING PRAYER

Of all the golden gifts that there may
be,

I would be bold, O Lord, to ask
for this:

Be it in all my glory and my bliss,
To make my little world think well
of Thee.

Be this the aim of every work and
word;

The source and limit of my liberty,
Life's blessedness and best prosper-
ity

To make the world think well of
Thee, my Lord.

I cannot pay Thee for Thy love to
me;

But since I am so greatly in Thy
debt

I fain would give Thee all that I
can get,

And live to make the world think well
of Thee.



Nature gives to every time and season
some beauties of its own, and from
morning to night, as from the cradle
to the grave, is but a succession of
changes, so gentle and easy, that we
can scarcely mark their progress.

CONSTANCY AND FAITHFULNESS

Constancy and faithfulness mean something else besides doing what is easiest and pleasantest to ourselves. They mean honouring whatever is opposite to the reliance others have in us—whatever would cause misery to those whom the course of our lives has made dependent on us.

G. ELIOT.



The silence of pure innocence often persuades when speaking fails.



The best means of destroying an enemy is to make him your friend.



When angry, count ten before you speak; if very angry, a hundred.

JEFFERSON.



How careful should we be, as we live on God's bounty, to live to His glory.

M. HENRY.

THE DIGNITY OF WORK

Life is hard work—any life, at least, which is worth being called life. I had rather, for the sake of my character, my manhood, my immortal soul—I had rather, I say, a hundred times over, be an English labourer, struggling on on twelve shillings a week, and learning obedience, self-denial, self-respect, and trust in God, by the things suffered in that hard life here at home, than be a negro in tropic islands, fattening himself in sloth under that perpetual sunshine, and thinking nought of God, because—poor fool—he can get all he wants without God's help. It is necessary for a man, if he is to be a man, to have to work hard whether he likes it or not.



A Christian never falls asleep in the fire or in the water; but grows drowsy in the sunshine.



Never does a man portray his own character more vividly than in his manner of portraying that of another.

J. PAUL.

THE FAIR WORLD

Very sweet, and passing fair, is the natural world that we live on and by. It is the home of us all, and the dear God is the great housekeeper and the ever-present mother therein. He lights the fires every morning, and puts them out every night; yea, hangs up the lamps, and makes it all snug for the family to sleep in, beneath His motherly watchfulness all night long, till the morning fire wakes again, and, glittering along the east, shines into His children's brightening eyes.

T. PARKER.



Work! and pure slumbers shall wait
on thy pillow;
Work! thou shalt ride over care's
coming billow;
Lie not down, wearied, 'neath woe's
weeping willow,
But work with a stout heart and resolute will!
Work for some good, be it ever so
slowly;
Work for some hope, be it ever so
lowly;
Work! for all labour is noble and
holy!

N. HALL.

LOST TIME

Lost wealth may be restored by industry; the wreck of health regained by temperance; forgotten knowledge restored by study; alienated friendship smoothed into forgetfulness; even forfeited reputation won by penitence and virtue. But who ever looked upon his vanished hours, recalled his slighted years? stamped them with wisdom? or effaced from Heaven's record the fearful blot of wasted time?



Thou dost the strength to workman's
arm impart,
From Thee the skilled musician's
mystic art,
The grace of poet's pen or painter's
hand,
To teach the loveliness of sea and
land.



To divert at any time a troublesome fancy, run to thy books; they presently fix thee to them, and drive the other out of thy thoughts. They always receive thee with the same kindness.

T. FULLER

RAIN

It rains; invisible hands have spread out a white scarf across the sky; drops of water scintillate like clouds of arrows; a ladder of light, resting on the sea, loses its summit in the glory lighting up the zenith. When all is over, Nature is refreshed; the rocks have recovered their vigorous tones; every leaf shines with an intense green; the sea itself seems new-dyed, and creamy flakes float soft as down upon the azure.



No one is so insignificant as to be sure his example can do no hurt.

LORD CLARENDON.



When you give to others give cheerfully. There is no blessing from an unwilling offering.



The law of Nature is, Do the thing, and you shall have the power; but they who do not the thing have not the power.

R. W. EMERSON.

NO PAINS, NO GAINS

If little labour, little are our gains;
Man's fortunes are according to his
pains.



Perhaps if we could penetrate nature's
secrets, we should find that what we
call weeds are more essential to the
well-being of the world than the most
precious fruit or grain.

N. HAWTHORNE.



Nature is the most thrifty thing in the
world; she never wastes anything;
she undergoes change, but there is
no annihilation; the essence remains,
the matter is eternal.

T. BINNEY.



Make good use of your time, for fast
Time flies and is for ever past;
To make time for yourself begin,
By order, method, discipline.

GOETHE.



When you know God perfectly, you
won't need an introduction to your-
self.

WORK BASKETS

If work baskets were gifted with power of speech, they could tell stories more true and tender than any we read. For women often sew the tragedy or comedy of life into their work.

L. ALCOTT.



I would live ever in the light,
I would work ever for the right,
I would serve Thee with all my
might—

Therefore to Thee, I come.

L. HEARN.



The power and majesty of the nature of things fail to receive credit at all times, if we merely look at its parts and do not embrace the vast whole in our conceptions.

PLINY.



A world without a Sabbath would be like a man without a smile, like a summer without flowers, and like a homestead without a garden. It is the joyous day of the whole week.

H. W. BEECHER.

GOD'S WORK PERFECT

Dare not to charge God's work with incompleteness.

In that want their beauty lies—they roll

Towards some infinite depth of love and sweetness,

Drawing onward man's reluctant soul.

A. A. PROCTOR.



The night brings out light from the Stars of Heaven

And perfume from the flowers of the Earth.

Light and fragrance are the gifts of trial.



Patient prayer is powerful prayer. If thou hast come into Christ's school, submit to His lessons and His tasks; one of them is: "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt."



There is perhaps no time at which we are disposed to think so highly of a friend as when we find him standing higher than we expected in the esteem of others.

THE SILENCE OF NATURE

How silent is the law of growth, which fills the earth with so much richness and beauty: so noiseless are all the finer operations of Nature that they would not disturb the lightest slumber of infancy, or destroy the poise of an insect's wing.

I think that an author who speaks about his own books is almost as bad as a mother who talks about her own children. You know what happens under these circumstances: everybody present soon gets rapt in abstraction—one looks at the ceiling, another at the fire, one sighs, and another perhaps yawns.

LORD BEACONSFIELD.



There was no sympathy for the weary and heavy laden until Christianity came.



Let us take care how we speak of those who have fallen on life's field. Help them up, not heap scorn upon them. We did not see the conflict. We do not know the snares.

NATURE

Nature scatters abroad her wealth
with a hand that is never weary. No
two trees are alike, no two leaves
exactly resemble one another. There
is no need of copying for servile
imitation; the Mind that conceived
this mighty whole can no more stint
its glorious ideas than the clouds
cease to drop moisture.



Truth needs no champions: in the
infinite deep
Of everlasting Soul her strength
abides,
From Nature's heart her mighty
pulses leap,
Through Nature's veins her strength,
undying tides.



The very gnarliest and hardest of
hearts has some musical strings in it.
But they are differently tuned in
every one of us, so that the self-
same strain which wakens a thrill of
sympathetic melody in one may leave
another quite silent and untouched.

J. R. LOWELL.

TRUE NOBILITY

The nobly born are not the most
noble.

There is a line more royal, more
majestic

Than the sceptred line of mighty
crowns;

An ancestry so bright with glorious
names,

That he who truly feels himself akin
to such

May stand before the Throne, noble
Amidst the noble, kingly amid kings.

SWAIN.



The tissue of the life to be

We weave with colours all our own,
And in the field of destiny,

We reap as we have sown.

J. G. WHITTIER.



The path of sorrow, and that path
alone,

Leads to the land where sorrow is
unknown;

No trav'ller ever reach'd that blest
abode,

Who found not thorns and briars
on his road.

COWPER.

TIME

Time's a handbreadth; 'tis a tale;
'Tis a vessel under sail;
'Tis an eagle on its way,
Darting down upon its prey;
'Tis an arrow in its flight,
Mocking the pursuing light;
'Tis a short-lived, fading flower;
'Tis a rainbow in a shower;
'Tis a momentary ray
Smiling on a winter's day;
'Tis a torrent's rapid stream;
'Tis a shadow; 'tis a dream;
'Tis the closing watch of night,
Dying at the rising light;
'Tis a bubble, 'tis a sigh—
Be prepared, O man, to die.

QUARLES.



Make time, save time
While time lasts;
All time is no time
When time is past.



Prayer sends the soul aloft, lifts it
up above the clouds in which our
selfishness and egotism befog us, and
gives us a chance to see which way
to steer.

VALUE OF GREAT THOUGHTS

Great thoughts are of the very highest value, for, as Emerson truly says: "If you can kindle the imagination by a new thought, by heroic histories, by uplifting poetry, instantly you expand—are cheered, inspired, and become wise, and even prophetic. Music works the miracle for those who have a good ear. And what omniscience has music? so absolutely impersonal, and yet every sufferer feels his secret sorrow reached. Yet to a scholar the book is as good, or better. There is no hour of vexation which, on a little reflection, will not find diversion and relief in the library."



Do business, but be not a slave to it.



Let no man despair of God's mercies to forgive him, unless he be sure that his sins be greater than God's mercies. It is impossible for that man to despair, who remembers that his Helper is omnipotent.

J. TAYLOR.

LONGINGS

If I could do some great high thing
for thee,
As Christ did for the world—could
slowly bleed
To death that thou might'st glad-
dened be, or freed;
If I could change my heart-throbs
to a sea,
And every wave of life thy wave
might be,
And every act of life a loving deed,
And every word a prayer to in-
tercede—
I should be then content eternally.
But I can do so little; just a song,
A wreath of words, I bring thee—
when I pine
To crown thee with my very being's
breath.
Some music here and there, in just
a line
Of verse or two, I bring thee—when
I long
To give thee love so deep it mocks
at death.

J. HINTON.



If a word spoken in its time is worth
one piece of money, silence in its
time is worth two.

THE EVENING CLOUD

A cloud lay cradled near the setting
sun,
A gleam of crimson tinged its
braided snow;
Long had I watched the glory moving
on,
O'er the still radiance of the lake
below:
Tranquil its spirit seemed, and floated
slow!
Even in its very motion there was
rest;
While every breath of eve that
chanced to blow
Wafted the traveller to the beau-
teous west.
Emblem, methought, of the departed
soul!
To whose white robe the gleam
of bliss is given;
And by the breath of mercy made
to roll
Right onward to the golden gates
of heaven,
Where, to the eye of faith, it peace-
ful lies,
And tells to man his glorious destinies.

WILSON.



The highest culture is to speak no ill.

LABOUR

Weave, brothers, weave! Toil is ours;
But toil is the lot of man;
One gathers the fruit—one gathers the
flowers—

One soweth the seed again;
There is not a creature, from Eng-
land's king

To the peasant that delves the soil,
That knows half the pleasure the
seasons bring

If he have not his share of toil.

B. CORNWALL.



The world has lived with human
beings in it a good many hundred
years now, and the faithful wife and
mother still ranks first among women.
All other grades from her rank down-
ward.



The constant virtue of the good is
tenderness and love
To all that lives—in earth, air, sea—
great, small—below, above;
Compassionate of heart, they keep
a gentle will to each;
Kind in their actions, mild in thought,
and pitiful in speech.

SIR E. ARNOLD.

WOULD YOU BE YOUNG AGAIN?

Would you be young again?

So would not I.

One tear to memory given,

Onward I'd hie.

Life's dark flood forded o'er,

All but the rest on shore,

Say, would you plunge once more

With home so nigh?

Where are the dear ones now?

My joy and delight,

Dear and more dear, though now

Hidden from sight;

Where they rejoice to be,

That is the land for me;

Fly time, fly speedily,

Come life and light.

B. NAIRNE.



A man must of necessity look into the face of his Father in the morning before he goes forth to look into the face of his brother.

J. H. BAILY.



If the sun is going down, look up at the stars; if the earth is dark, keep your eyes on Heaven. With God's presence and God's promises, a man or child may be cheerful.

HAPPINESS

Dr. James Hamilton, in his fine wisdom, asked: "Are you not surprised to find how independent of money peace of conscience is, and how much happiness can be condensed in the humblest home? A cottage will not hold the bulky furniture and sumptuous accommodations of a mansion; but, if God be there, a cottage will hold as much happiness as might stock a palace."



The Bible, like the sky, is most varied. It is a book full of sorrow, and a book full of joy. The Bible is a mosaic; and each part will bear the microscopic view of an admiring eye.



Quarrelsome people affect to be such lovers of the truth, that a sense of duty compels them to say what comes into their minds, be it palatable, or not, to those whom they address.



That trouble is great for which we look and wait.

THE BEAUTY OF TRUTH

Truth does not require your painting; it is itself beauty. Unfold it, and men will be captivated. Take your brush to set off the rainbow, or give a new tinge of splendour to the setting sun; but keep it away from "The Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley."

DR. THOMAS.



A sympathising heart is a spring of pure water bursting forth from the mountain side; ever pure and sweet in itself, it carries gladness and joy on every ripple of its sparkling current.



God gives men wisdom as he gives them gold. His treasure house is not the mint but the mine.



There is one form of hope which is never unwise, and which certainly does not diminish with the increase of knowledge. In that form, it changes its name, and we call it *patience*;

LITTLE THINGS

Little lies are seeds of great ones. Little cruelties are germs of great ones. Little treacheries are, like small holes in raiment, the beginnings of large ones. Little dishonesties are like the drops that work through the banks of the dyke: a drop is an engineer; it tunnels a way for its fellows, and they, rushing, prepare for all behind them. A worm in a ship's plank proves, in time, worse than a cannon ball.



Life is not pocket-money, to be spent as whim or taste directs; but capital entrusted to your care, that you may trade with it for God and yourselves here in this mart of time.



Love is the emblem of Eternity: it confounds all notion of time; effaces all memory of a beginning, all fear of an end.



What you dislike in another take care to correct in yourself.

SELF-DENIAL •

Teach self-denial and make its practice pleasurable, and you create for the world a destiny more sublime than ever issued from the brain of the wildest dreamer.



To reform one's maxims is nothing; it is to change the title of the book. To learn new habits is everything, for it is to reach the substance of life. Life is a tissue of habits.

AMIEL.



Whosoever may discern true ends here, shall grow pure enough to love them, brave enough to strive for them, and strong enough to reach them though the road be rough.

E. B. BROWNING.



In this false world, we do not always
know

Who are our friends and who our
enemies.

We all have enemies, and all need
friends.

H. W. LONGFELLOW.

ON A SUN-DIAL

With warning hand I mark Time's
rapid flight
From Life's glad Morning to its
solemn Night;
Yet through the dear God's love I
also show
There's Light above me, by the Shade
below.



There are two freedoms—the false,
where a man is free to do what he
likes; and the true, where a man is
free to do what is right.

C. KINGSLEY.



THE GLORY OF SERVICE

Helpfulness is the highest quality of
the human life. Service is the crown-
ing glory of man. The serving type
is the noblest type of all the manifold
varieties of human development.



The latter part of a man's life is taken
up in curing the follies, prejudices,
and false opinions he had contracted
in the former.

DEAN SWIFT.

THE TRUE WORTH OF MAN

No man can say whether he is rich or poor by turning to his ledger. It is the heart that makes the man rich. He is rich or poor according to what he *is*, not according to what he *has*.



It is not enough in this world to "mean well." We ought to do well. Thoughtfulness, therefore, becomes a duty, and gratitude one of the graces.



If you are wise, you will be merry.



A little margin for the stillness and leisure of growth—the time to think—is the only corrective for the rush and stress of practical life.

L. WHITING.



Friendship is a mighty factor in this hard world, since by friendship comes self-forgetfulness; and no man can do great works unless he forgets self.

J. FARNOL.

GROWTH

Of all forces, that of growth is the one irresistible, for it is the creating power of God, the law of life and of being.

G. MACDONALD.



Woman is the heart of the family if man is the head; and the head is of no value without the heart to influence it.



Examples would indeed be excellent things, were not people so modest that none will set, and so vain that none will follow them.



Believe me, every man has his secret sorrows, which the world knows not; and oftentimes we call a man cold when he is only sad.



Promptness is never better than in repentance, which loses us more by delay than we suspect in our thoughtlessness.

NEED OF SUNSHINE

I always told you that not having enough sunshine was what ailed the world. Make the people happy and there will not be half the quarrelling or a tenth part of the wickedness there is.

L. M. CHILD,



I believe that the want of our age is not more "free" handling of the Bible, but more "reverent" handling, more humility, more patient study, and more prayer.

J. C. RYLE.



Some would be thought to do great things who are but tools and instruments, like the fool who fancied he played upon the organ, when he only blew the bellows.



Virtue seems to be nothing more than a motion consonant to the system of things; were a planet to fly from its orbit it would represent a vicious man.

SHENSTONE.

RESERVE

Merit confidence by frankness, at the same time guard with fidelity whatever secret may be entrusted to you. "Reserve wounds friendship, and distrust destroys."

MRS. SIGOURNEY.



Receive no satisfaction for premeditated impertinence; forget it, forgive it, but keeps him inexorably at a distance who offered it.

LAVATER.



It is easy to enrich ourselves with a thousand virtues than to correct ourselves of a single fault.

BRUYERE.



Children are the milestones set along the road, reminding us of the distance we have gone on the journey of life.



He who reforms himself has done more toward reforming the public than a crowd of noisy impotent patriots.

LAVATER.

ADMIRATION

Admiration is a short-lived passion, that immediately decays upon growing familiar with its object, unless still fed with fresh discoveries.



The mystery of all human mysteries is the upward tendency of certain souls through so much that clogs and would defile their wings.

G. MACDONALD.



In diving to the bottom for pleasures we bring up more gravel than pearls.





The Cheerful Traveller



IMPORTANT TRIFLES

See that the feelings, thoughts, actions, of each hour are pure and true; then will your life be such. The wide pasture is but separate spires of grass; the sheeted bloom of the prairies but isolated flowers.

H. W. BEECHER.



It is a duty we owe to the world to be happy and bright; and, like a cheerful traveller, take the road singing beside the hedge.



Thou goest thine, and I go mine,
Many ways we wend;
Many days, and many ways,
Ending in one end.

LOVE'S VALUE

Love, in this world, is like a seed taken from the tropics, and planted where the winter comes too soon; and it cannot spread itself in flower-clusters and wide twining vines, so that the whole air is filled with the perfume thereof. But there is to be another summer for it yet. Care for the root now, and God will care for the top by and by . . . Love is God's loaf; and this is that feeding for which we are taught to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread."

H. W. BEECHER.



Pride frustrates its own desire; it will not mount the steps of a throne because it has not yet got the crown on.



How can a man learn to know himself?

By reflection never; only by action.
In the measure in which thou seekest
to do thy duty

Shalt thou know what is in thee.
But what is thy duty? The demand
of the hour.

GOETHE.

INFECTIOUS GOODNESS

There is contagion in a sweet and beautiful character for health is contagious as well as disease. We are all the time giving to others either wholesome or unwholesome moods—poisoning their atmosphere with doubt and suspicion or clearing it with helpfulness and good cheer.



Many a man who thinks he bears a great enterprise on his shoulders is simply round-shouldered from carrying a large load of self-conceit.



When thou wishest to delight thyself, think of the virtues of those who live with thee: for instance, the activity of one, and the modesty of another, and the liberality of a third, and some other good quality of a fourth. For nothing delights so much as the examples of virtues, when they are exhibited in the morals of those who live with us, and present themselves in abundance. Wherefore, we must keep them before us.

M. ANTONINUS.

FLOWERS

The love of flowers seems a naturally implanted passion, without any alloy or debasing object in its motive; we cherish them in youth, we admire them in declining years; but perhaps it is the early flowers of spring that always bring with them the greatest degree of pleasure, and our affections seem to expand at the sight of the first blossom under the sunny wall or sheltered bank, however humble its race may be. With summer flowers we seem to live, as with our neighbours, in harmony and good order; but spring flowers are cherished as private friendships.



If the best man's faults were written on his forehead, it would make him pull his hat over his eyes.



Thought is existence. More than that, so far as we are concerned, existence is thought, all our conceptions of existence being some kind or other of thought.

HUXLEY.

SELF-CULTURE

Self-culture is something possible. It is not a dream. It has foundations in our nature. There are two powers of the human soul which make self-culture possible—the self-searching and the self-forming power.



He who does the best he can is always improving. His best of yesterday is outdone to-day, and his best of to-day will be outdone to-morrow. It is this steady progress, no matter from what point it starts, that forms the chief element of all greatness and goodness.



When people talk lightly and glibly of having “made up their minds” about things on which the wisdom of mankind is still divided, we may well conclude that they would be intellectually better off if their minds were in a less finished condition.



There is no place too humble for the glories of heaven to shine in.

CONSCIENCE

Conscience is God's king that he puts in a man's breast, and conscience ought to reign. You may get up a civil war to fight against conscience, but you cannot kill the king. You may dethrone him for a while, but he struggles and fights for the mastery.



It is said that gardeners, sometimes, when they would bring a rose to richer flowering, deprive it for a season of light and moisture. Silent and dark it stands, dropping one faded leaf after another, and seeming to go down patiently to death. But when every leaf is dropped, and the plant stands stripped to the uttermost, a new life is even then working in the buds, from which shall spring a tender foliage and a brighter wealth of flowers. So, often, in celestial gardenings, every leaf of earthly joy must drop before a new and divine bloom visits the soul.

MRS. H. B. STOWE,



Cheerfulness is as friendly to the mind as to the body.

THE SUNRISE NEVER FAILED US YET

Upon the sadness of the sea
The sunset broods regretfully;
From the far lonely spaces slow
Withdraws the wistful after-glow.

So out of life the splendour dies,
So darken all the happy skies,
So gathers twilight, cold and stern,
But overhead the planets burn.

And up the east another day
Shall chase the bitter dawn away:
What though our eyes with tears be
wet!

The sunrise never failed us yet.

The blush of dawn may yet restore
Our light, and hope, and joy once
more;

Sad soul, take comfort, nor forget
That sunrise never failed us yet.

C. THAXTED.



Be yourself. Ape no greatness. Be
willing to pass for what you are. A
good farthing is better than a bad
sovereign. Affect no oddness; but
dare to be right, though you have to
be singular.

S. COLEY.

A MAIDEN'S DOWRY

A Greek maiden, being asked what fortune she would bring her husband, replied: "I will bring him what gold cannot purchase—a heart unspotted, and virtue without a stain—my inheritance from parents who had these, and nothing else, to leave me."



The value of labour as a tonic is not theoretical. Work to do and the will to do it well are as certain to induce cheerfulness and contentment as idleness or mere desultory occupation is likely to bring langour, irritability, and fancied ailments.



Truth is truth,
And justifies itself by undreamed
ways.

It's better, if we doubt,
To say so, act up to our truth perceived,
However feebly.

R. BROWNING.



Cheerfulness is to life what the sun is
to Nature.

THE GREAT TEMPLE

God's grandest temple on this globe is the human soul; it was His first temple in Paradise, and it will be His last temple on earth—and to see it in ruins might well prevail to make the angels weep.



When the Christ enters a man's soul, He leaves the door open; and so it must remain if He is to stay within—open for his sympathies to go out and for the claims of others to come in.

J. M. BLAKE.



Nature is a rag-merchant, who works up every shred and odd and end into new creations.



This is the beginning of all Gospels, that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand—just where we are. It is just as near as our work is: for the Gate of Heaven for each soul lies in the endeavour to do that work perfectly.

W. G. GAUNT.

COMMON-PLACES

“Common-places,” you say. Yes ; common-places, which word means two things—truths that affect us all, and also truths which, because they are so universal and so entirely believed, are all but powerless. Surely it is not time to stop preaching such truths as long as they are forgotten by the overwhelming majority of the people who acknowledge them. Thank God, the staple of the work of us preachers is the reiteration of common-places, which His goodness has made familiar, and our indolence and sin have made stale and powerless.

A. MACLAREN.



Anger is like an over-hasty servant,
who runs off with all speed before he
has heard half the message.



God metes not out our life in one
long length;
But in a tenderer way.
Have faith: and take thy bread, thy
cross, thy strength,
Just day by day.

GOD'S WAYS

God speaks to hearts of men in many ways:

Some the red banner of the rising sun,

Spread o'er the snow-clad hills, has taught His praise;

Some the sweet silence when the day is done;

Some, after loveless lives, at length have won

His word in children's hearts and children's gaze:

And some have found Him where low rafters ring

To greet the hand that helps, the heart that cheers;

And some in prayer, and some in perfecting

Of watchful toil through unrewarding years:

And some not less are His who vainly sought

His voice, and with His silence have been taught

Who bare His chain that bade them to be bound,

And at the end, in finding not, have found.



If not a cripple, don't use crutches.

THE WINGS OF GOD

The wings of God are broad wings.
They cover up all our wants, all our
sorrows, all our sufferings. He puts
one wing over our cradle, and He
puts the other over our grave. It is
not a desert in which we are placed;
it is a nest.



. . . Alas! We make
A ladder of our thoughts, where
angels step—
But sleep ourselves at the foot. Our
high resolves
Look down upon our slumbering acts.

L. E. L.



It is a good thing to be rich, and a
good thing to be strong. But it is a
better thing to be beloved by many
friends.

EURIPIDES.



Contentment abides with truth. And
you will generally suffer for wishing
to appear other than what you are;
whether it be richer or greater or
more learned. The mask soon
becomes an instrument of torture.

FAILURE

Not all who seem to fail, have failed
indeed,
Not all who fail have therefore worked
in vain;
There is no failure for the good and
wise;
What though thy seed should fall
by the wayside,
And the birds snatch it; yet the birds
are fed;
Or they may bear it far across the
tide,
To give rich harvests after thou art
died.

C. KINGSLEY.



Don't fear too much the enemy you
make by saying "No," nor trust too
much the friend you make by saying
"Yes."



God means every man to be happy,
be sure;
He sends us no sorrows that have
not some cure.
Our duty down here is to do, not to
know—
Live as though life were earnest, and
life will be so.

FRIENDSHIP

He that does a base thing in zeal for his friend burns the golden thread that ties their hearts together.

J. TAYLOR.



Prosperity really tests men more than misfortune. Men of common energy rise superior to the frowns of fortune; but her smiles have a witchcraft in them which often convert wise men into fools.



Of all the passions, jealousy is that which exacts the hardest service, and pays the bitterest wages. Its service is to watch the success of our enemy; its wages, to be sure of it.



True love desires not credit, but scope and opportunity.



He that believes dares trust God for the morrow, and is no more solicitous for the next year than he is for that which is past.

THE BRIGHT SIDE UPPERMOST

Dr. Johnson used to say that a habit of looking at the best side of every event is better than a thousand pounds a year. Bishop Hall quaintly remarks: "For every bad there might be a worse, and when a man breaks his leg, let him be thankful that it was not his neck." When Fenelon's library was on fire, "God be praised" he exclaimed, "that it was not the dwelling of some poor man!" This is the true spirit of submission, one of the most beautiful traits that can possess the human heart.



He who can conceal his joys, is greater than he who can hide his griefs.



Blessed are the peacemakers! Blessed are they that remove friction, that make the courses of life smooth, and the intercourse of men gentle.

H. W. BEECHER.



That load becomes light which is cheerfully borne.

SUNSET

Beautiful is the setting of the great sun, when the last song of the bird fades into the lap of silence; when the islands of the clouds are bathed in light, and the first star springs up over the grave of day.



There is many a thing that the world calls disappointment; but there is no such word in the dictionary of faith. What to others are disappointments, are to believers intimations of the will of God.

J. NEWTON.



Do to-day's duty, fight to-day's temptation, and do not weaken and distract yourself by looking forward to things which you cannot see, and could not understand if you saw them.

C. KINGSLEY.



Though love and poetry are not religion, they yet serve, before a higher faith has been called into being, to open up the way for holier things.

DUTY

Duty is that which is due; it is a debt from man to God; and though at last this debt, somehow or other, will have to be paid to the uttermost farthing, to evade it for a time, aye, even for a lifetime, is miserably easy. To be good requires an effort; it requires the girded loin and the burning lamp; it requires the soldier's armour and the athlete's nerve: but to be bad, to be treacherous, to be soft, to be lazy, to be impure—that needs nothing but the vainest, the silliest, the emptiest, the most degraded natures.



All errors spring up in the neighbourhood of some truth; they grow round about it, and the most part derive their strength from such contiguity.

T. BINNEY.



The wheels of nature are not made to roll backwards; everything presses towards eternity; from the birth of time an impetuous current has set in, which bears all the sons of men toward that interminable ocean.

R. HALL.

DAYBREAK

I think, if people oftener saw the break of day, they would vow oftener to keep that dawning day holy, and would not so often let its fair hours drift away with nothing done that were not best left undone.



The graceful willow never breaks beneath the snow.

JAPANESE PROVERB.



Integrity is the first moral virtue, benevolence the second, and prudence is the third; without the first, the two latter cannot exist; and without the third, the two former would often be rendered useless.



The surest method of arriving at a knowledge of God's eternal purposes about us, is to be found in the right use of the present moment. Each hour comes with some little fagot of God's will fastened upon its back.

F. W. FABER.

JOY

Joy is the mainspring in the whole
Of endless Nature's calm rotation:
Joy moves the dazzling wheels that
roll

In the great Timepiece of Creation;
Joy breathes on buds, and flowers
they are;

Joy beckons—suns come forth from
heaven;

Joy rolls the spheres in realms afar,
Ne'er to thy glass, dim Wisdom,
given!



With my love this knowledge too was
given,

Which each calm day doth strengthen
more and more—

That they who love are but one
step from Heaven.

J. R. LOWELL.



A dewdrop is shaped by the same
laws which mould the mightiest of
the planets.



The doing of evil to avoid an evil
cannot be good.

S. T. COLERIDGE.

NOBLE SERVICE

They serve God well
Who serve His creatures; when the
 funeral bell
Tolls for the dead there's nothing
 left of all
That decks the scutcheon and the
 velvet pall,
Save this—the coronet is empty show,
The strength and loveliness are hid
 below,
The shifting wealth to others hath
 accrued,
And learning cheers not the grave's
 solitude.
What's done is what remains. Ah!
 blessed
They who leave completed tasks of
 love to stay
And answer mutely for them; being
 dead,
Life was not purposeless, though life
 be fled.

LADY OF LA GARAYE.



Honour is like the eye, which cannot
suffer the least impurity without
suffering; it is a precious stone, the
price of which is lessened by the
least flaw.

NOBILITY

The question is not, Art thou in the nobility? This is the question: Is there nobility in thee?



Mere reading and writing is not education: it would be quite as reasonable to call bricks and mortar architecture.

C. DICKENS.



The pebble cannot be polished without friction, nor can the graces of the Christian be fully developed without trials.



A wise man will make haste to forgive; because he knows the true value of time, and will not suffer it to pass away in unnecessary pain.

DR. JOHNSON.



We must not only be good, but strong; we must not only be high-minded, but brave-hearted. We must think loftily—and we must work hard.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

TROUBLES

If you tell your troubles to God, you put them into the grave; they will never rise again when you have committed them to Him. If you roll your burden anywhere else it will roll back again, like the stone of Sisyphus.

C. H. SPURGEON.



Those hours are not lost that are spent in cementing affection; for a friend is above gold, precious as the stores of the mind.

M. TUPPER.



Water cannot rise above its level; men cannot rise above the honour that is in them. Little men cannot be great; ungrateful men cannot be just; mean souls can never be majestic.

DR. PARKER.



Come well or ill, the Cross, the
Crown,
The Rainbow or the Thunder,
I fling my soul and body down
For God to plough them under.

R. L. STEVENSON.

A HEAVENLY VISION

There is a very good legend illustrating the blessedness of performing our duty at whatever cost to our own inclination. A beautiful vision of our Saviour had appeared to a monk, and in silent bliss he was gazing upon it. The hour arrived at which it was his duty to feed the poor of the convent. He lingered not in his cell to enjoy the vision, but left it to perform his humble duty. When he returned he found the blessed vision still waiting for him, and uttering these words, "Hadst thou stayed, I must have fled."



Better go round than flounder in the bog.



Nature always springs to the surface, and manages to show what she is; it is vain to stop or try to drive her back; she breaks through every obstacle, pushes forward, and at last makes for herself a way.

BOILEAU.



A faithful comrade is a sure anchor.

TWO LIVES

We have two lives about us,
Two worlds in which we dwell:
Within us, and without us,
Alternate heaven and hell;
Without, the sombre real;
Within our heart of hearts the
beautiful ideal.



Everyone must see and feel that bad thoughts quickly ripen into bad actions; and that if the latter only are forbidden, and the former left free, all morality will soon be at an end.

PORTEUS.



When you put on your clothes remember the labour of the weaver: when you eat your daily bread think of the hardships of the husbandmen.

FROM THE CHINESE.



Taking the first step with the good thought, the second step with the good word, and the third step with the good deed, I entered Paradise.

PERSIAN PROVERB.

A LESSON TO MURMURERS

A dewdrop falling on the ocean wave
Exclaimed in fear: "I perish in this
grave!"

But in a shell received, that drop of
dew

Into a pearl of marvellous beauty
grew;

And, happy now, the grace did
magnify

Which thrust it forth—as it had feared
—to die:

Until again: "I perish quite" it said,
Torn by rude diver from its ocean
bed.

O unbelieving; so it came to gleam
Chief jewel in a monarch's diadem.

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.



Did God make sleep necessary to man
in order that He might at certain
times have the pleasure of the entire
care of him?



Many a wrong, and its curing song,
Many a road, and many an inn;
Room to roam, but only one home
For all the world to win.

G. MACDONALD.

CONSTANCY

Without constancy there is neither love, friendship, nor virtue in the world.



Truth, mercy, knowledge, justice,
Are powers that ever stand;
They build their temples in the soul,
And work with God's right hand.

ELLIOT.



Great Thoughts and noble, pure and
bright—
The meteor flashes of the soul—
Illume the chambers of the mind,
And chase the gloomy shadowings
Of darkness that may be felt.

DAYBREL.



If there is a right thing to be done,
and we seem to pass through a wrong
thing on our way to it, depend
upon it there's another way to it, and
a better one, and it is our own fault,
and not God's, that we do not find it.

E. GANNET.



Vengeance is the coward's weapon.

THE POWER OF GREAT THOUGHTS

Give to men great and noble thoughts, and their minds will feed upon them, and they will become great. Yea, utter some great truths in the midst of the multitudes of men, that shall find an echo in their heart, and you stir them at once into the desire of making nobility at least a hope and an aspiration.



Sacrifice and Love, these two are not two but one; they are names each one of the other.



It is common for men to err, but it is only a fool that perseveres in his error. A wise man therefore alters his opinions: a fool never.

LATIN PROVERB.



Life is too difficult to be able to do without religion. To be a man, a right healthy and glad man, is a noble thought; but without the sanctions of religion, none but a very few have ever persisted in even trying to be it.

BOOKS

Good books are to the young mind what the warming sun, and the refreshing rain of spring are to the seeds which have lain dormant in the frosts of winter.



All the events of our life are materials out of which we may make what we will. He who has much spirit should make most of his life.



Smallness is often the disguise of the infinite. You may count the apples on the tree, but who can count the trees in the apple? you may reckon the acorns on the oak, but not the oaks in the acorn.



Live not for selfish aims. Live to shed joy on others. Thus best shall your own happiness be secured; for no joy is ever given freely forth that does not have quick echo in the giver's own heart.

H. W. BEECHER.

LANGUAGE

If it be a production of Nature, it is her last and crowning production, which she reserved for man alone. If it be a work of human art, it would seem to lift the human artist almost to a level of the Divine Creator. If it be the gift of God, it is God's greatest gift, for through it God spoke to man, and man speaks to God in worship, prayer, and meditation.

MAX MULLER.



As there comes a warm sunbeam into every cottage window, so comes a love-beam of God's care and pity for every separate need.

N. HAWTHORNE.



All work properly so called is an appeal from the seen to the unseen, a devout calling upon the higher powers.

T. CARLYLE.



Faith has an eagle's eye and a lion's heart. It has a lion's heart to bear present evils, and it has an eagle's eye to see future good.

EXTRAVAGANCE

A miser grows rich by seeming poor;
an extravagant man grows poor by
seeming rich.



He who should conquer in battle ten
times a hundred thousand were in-
deed a hero; but truly a greater hero
is he who has but once conquered
himself.



Commit thy trifles to God, for to
Him is nothing trivial, and it is only
the bitterness of man that seeth no
greatness in a trifle.

M. TUPPER.



It is the man who determines the
dignity of the occupation; not the
occupation that measures the dignity
of the man.



In the winter of experience there are
no songs of joy, but winter prepares
the way for the spring-time that is
coming.

R. WHITWELL.

THE COMING REST

Cometh sunshine after rain,
After morning joy again;
After heavy bitter grief
Dawneth surely sweet relief;
And my soul, who from her height
Sank to realms of woe and night,
Wingeth now to heaven her flight.

P. GERHARDT.



Useful occupations ought not to be discouraged by the contempt of those who are not obliged to pursue them for a livelihood.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.



Occupation is the scythe of Time.



Friendship improves happiness, and abates misery, by the doubling of our joys and the dividing of our griefs.



Never borrow trouble. If you do, you will find that the interest you have to pay for the accommodation is excessive.

ETERNITY OF RELIGION

One of the red Republicans of 1793 was telling a good peasant of La Vendée: "We are going to pull down your churches and steeples—all that recalls the superstitions of past ages, and all that brings to your mind the idea of God." "Citizen," replied the good Vendéan, "pull down the stars then."



Sympathy is a mighty power; even a touch of it in the dropping tear, the faltering voice, the quivering lip, will often move a soul to its centre.



Did you ever try how pleasant it is to forgive anyone? There is nothing else wherein we can resemble God perfectly and easily.



Fear God for His power; trust Him for His wisdom; love Him for His goodness; praise Him for His greatness; believe Him for His faithfulness; and adore Him for His holiness.

J. MASON.

READING

To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting.



Hold fast by the present! Every situation, nay, every moment, is of infinite value, for it is the representative of a whole eternity.

GOETHE.



To take up life as it is, and do the best we can to make it great and good—our best to make it fit to give back one day to the God who gave it—that is to live.



An old philosopher used to say he never once regretted having held his tongue, but very often he had felt sorry for having spoken.



Faith is the key that unlocks the cabinet of the promises, and empties out their treasures into the soul.

WATSON, 1696.

OUR GOD

His love would have us come close to Him, not as suppliants who knock at the outer door, not as strangers who tarry in the hall and stately courts of the king, but as His children who come right into the inner chamber of the Father's presence.

M. G. PEARSE.



He who doth not hearken to the voice of a friend and well-wisher in adversity, is the delight of his enemies.



Utmost wisdom is not in self-denial, but in learning to find extreme pleasure in little things.

J. RUSKIN.



Strong reasons make strong actions.



Good-nature, like a bee, collects honey from every herb. Ill-nature, like a spider, sucks poison from the sweetest flower.

T. G. SELBY.

WORK AND SUFFERING

Work is but one half of life; suffering is the other. There is a hemisphere of the world in the sunshine of work, but there is another in the shadow of suffering.



Nothing is more destructive of individual character than for a man to lose all faith in his own abilities for the prosecution of his work.

J. G. FICHTE.



We are governed by sympathy; and the extent of our sympathy is determined by our sensibility.

W. HAZLITT.



Always encounter petulance with gentleness, and perseverance with kindness; a gentle hand will lead the elephant itself by a hair.



Seldom can the heart be lonely
If it seek a lonelier still,
Self-forgetting, seeking only
Emptier cups of love to fill.

NATURE AS A TEACHER

Believe me, on my own experience, you will find more in the woods than in books; the forest and rocks will teach you more than you can learn of the greatest masters.

ST. BERNARD.



Bottled troubles are hard to bear.



Every good deed will have its blessing. We need have no fear of losing the reward if only we make sure to merit it by the virtue of our motive and the judiciousness of our effort.



Virtue is a kind of health, beauty, and good habit of the soul.

PLATO.



Is it not the first duty of those who are happy to tell of their gladness to others? All men can learn to be happy; and the teaching of it is easy.

M. MAETERLINCK.

LOVE—THE KEY

Love is the centre and circumference,
The course and aim of all things. 'Tis
the key
To joy and sorrow; and the recom-
pense
For all the ills that have been, or
may be.

E. W. WILCOX.



So long as we are full of self, we
are shocked at the faults of others.
Let us think often of our own short-
comings, and we shall be lenient to-
wards those of others.



There is a ministry of being as well
as of doing.



Duties are ours; events are God's.



Walk boldly, wisely, in the light thou
hast:
There is a Hand above will help thee
on.

P. J. BAILEY.

WHAT OUGHT TO BE

Alas! and alas! "that ought to be,"
what depths of sorrowful meaning
lie in that simple phrase. How happy
would be our lives, how grand our
actions, how pure our souls, if all
could be with us "as it ought to be."



Humility is the ground-work of all
spiritual life.

Stoop! Stoop! It is a low entry to
go in at Heaven's gate.

ST. BERNARD.



Possessions vanish, and opinions
change,

And passions hold a fluctuating seat;
But, by the storms of circumstance
unshaken,

And subject neither to eclipse or
wane,

Duty exists.

W. WORDSWORTH.



Of earthly goods the best is a good
wife;

A bad, the bitterest curse of human
life.

SIMONIDES.

MOULDING OUR LIFE

Remember that every day of your early life is ordaining irrevocably, for good or evil, the custom and practice of your soul; ordaining either sacred customs of 'dear and lovely recurrence, or trenching deeper and deeper the furrows for seeds of sorrow.

J. RUSKIN.



The stream is calmest when it nears
the tide,

And flowers are sweetest at the even-
tide.

And birds most musical at the close
of day,

And saints divinest when they pass
away.



Flowers are the language of the affections; they grow out of God's affections, because He delights in works rather than words. Nothing is really human but what is divine.



The pleasing countenance is a silent commendation.

SYRUS.

WISDOM

It is high wisdom to be afraid of doing wrong, but highest wisdom recognises that unless we be doing the reverse with all our strength we are sinning the last sin of doing nothing—the sin of robbing God and man.

J. M. BLAKE.



There is, in the revolution of time, a kind of warning voice, which summons us to thought and reflection; and every season, as it arises, speaks to us of the analagous character which we ought to maintain.



Here is an excellent rule: say nothing respecting yourself, either good, bad, or indifferent. Nothing good, for that is vanity; nothing bad, for that is affectation; nothing indifferent, for that is silly.



Teach us delight in simple things,
And mirth that has no bitter springs,
Forgiveness free of evil done,
And love to all men 'neath the sun.

SELF-REVEALED

He who thinks better of his neighbours than they deserve cannot be a bad man, for the standard by which his judgment is formed is the goodness of his own heart. It is the base only who believe all men base, or, in other words, like themselves.



Pleasure loves the garden and the flowers; labour loves the fields and the grain; devotion loves the mountains and the skies.

J. BLAIR.



RECREATION NECESSARY

For the bow cannot possibly stand always bent, nor can human nature or human frailty subsist without some lawful recreation.

CERVANTES.



Perseverance and tact are the two great qualities most valuable for all men who would mount, but especially for those who have to step out of the crowd.

LORD BEACONSFIELD.

UNDERSTANDING GOD

It is a question whether a really thoughtful mind could possibly yield the homage of its entire being to a God whom it could understand and fathom. The instinct of such a mind would revolt from it.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



Keep your store of smiles and your kindest thoughts for home; give to the world only those which are to spare.



Art is more god-like than Science. Science discovers, Art creates.



The blue of heaven is larger than the cloud.

E. B. BROWNING.



LIFE

Life is but a short day; but it is a working day. Activity may lead to evil; but inactivity cannot be led to good.

H. MORE.

PLEASURE AND PAIN

All pleasure must be bought at the price of pain. The difference between false pleasure and true is just this: for the true, the price is paid before you enjoy it; for the false, after you enjoy it.

J. FOSTER.



A man who scamps his work degrades himself.



The dignity of labour is not what it fetches in the market, but what it develops in the man.



He who best uses to-day is in the best position for to-morrow's advantages.



Satan never has to advertise for servants.



God likes far better to help people from the inside than from the outside.

G. MACDONALD.

GREAT AIMS

But try, I urge—the trying shall
suffice;
The aim, if reached or not, makes
great the life.

R. BROWNING.



Conviction of ignorance is the door-
step to the temple of wisdom.

C. H. SPURGEON.



The stream from Wisdom's well
Which God supplies is inexhaustible.



It is a good thing to strike while the
iron is hot, but it is better to make
the iron hot by striking.



Believe me, on the road of life, you
and I will find few things more worth
while than comradeship.

M. E. SANGSTER.



God's shoulder is always under a
good man's burden.

LOVE'S PAYMENT

If you love others they will love you.
If you speak kindly to them they will
speak kindly to you. Love is repaid
with love, and hatred with hatred.
Would you hear a sweet and pleasing
echo, speak sweetly and pleasantly
yourself.



Clever children sometimes make
foolish parents.



Attend my words—no place but har-
bours danger;
In every region virtue finds a foe.

J. MILTON.



The treasures which are kept in
coffers are not real, but only those
which are kept in the soul.

A. MACLAREN.



Every resident of village or suburb
who owns or occupies a rod square
of mother earth, should have a gar-
den; it pays largely in health and
pleasure.

D. D. T. MOORE,

SYMPATHY

Sympathy, that instinct which can
 sound
The hearts of others, that most subtle
 nerve
Which aches responsive to another's
 pain.



The beautiful arrangement of the
seasons, divided into years and
months, prove that there is a God.

PLATO.



Summer is the season in which the
Creator pours forth the treasures of
His blessings in the greatest abun-
dance.



The difficulty in life is the same as
the difficulty in grammar—to know
when to make the exceptions to the
rule.



Since all that I meet shall work for
 my good,
The bitter is sweet; the medicine,
 food.

J. NEWTON.

IDEAL GREATNESS

He who comes up to his own idea of greatness, must always have had a very low standard of it in his mind.

W. HAZLITT.



It is not the spurt at the start but the continued un-resting, un-hasting advance that wins the day.



Being positive in judgment to-day is no proof that we shall not have to be of a different opinion to-morrow.



The best way to prevent a basket being filled with chaff is to fill it with wheat.



The depths of misery are never below the depths of mercy.



Let your courage be as keen, but at the same time as polished, as your sword.

THREE APHORISMS

Nothing is more expensive than penuriousness; nothing more anxious than carelessness; and every duty which is bidden to wait returns with seven fresh duties at its back.

C. KINGSLEY.



Knowledge and timber shouldn't be much used till they are seasoned.



The sunshine of good-temper penetrates the gloomiest shades. Beneath its cheering rays the miserable may bask, and forget all their misery.





Inspiring Thoughts



THOUGHTS NOTABLE

Great thoughts are among our most precious and abiding treasures. They enlighten our darkness, they people our solitude, and, while other things fall from us like the leaves which are loosened from the greenwood tree, these remain, like the atoms which go to build up its girth, being woven into the very substance and tissue of the soul.



Every temptation that is resisted, every noble aspiration that is encouraged, every sinful thought that is repressed, every bitter word that is withheld, adds its little item to the impetus of that great movement which is bearing humanity onwards towards a richer life and higher character.

WHAT WOULD'ST THOU BE?

A blessing to each one surrounding
me:
A chalice of dew to the weary heart,
A sunbeam of joy, bidding sorrow
depart,
To the storm-tossed vessel a beacon
light,
A nightingale song in the darkest
night,
A beckoning hand to a far-off goal,
An angel of love to each friendless
soul:

Such would I be.

O, that such happiness were for me!

F. R. HAVERGAL.



What man would be wise, let him
learn of the river
That bears on its waters the record
of Time;
A message to him every wave can
deliver,
To teach him to creep till he knows
how to climb.

J. O'REILLY.



Thrift is the basis of self-help, and
the foundation of much that is excel-
lent in character.

CONSCIENCE

The conscience, that sole monarchy
in man,
Owing allegiance to no earthly prince;
Made by the edict of creation free;
Made sacred, made above all human
laws;
Holding of Heaven alone.



The real life of the heart is always unfolding in silence, and men of large natures carry in the centre of their hearts a secret garden or a silent wilderness. If there are no heart words for full human feeling, how much less for Divine!

H. W. BEECHER.



Whate'er of good the Past can tell to
hear,
With hopeful eye to view the Future's
trend,
The Present serve in truth and with-
out fear,
It seems to me is Wisdom's aim and
end.



Drive round sharp corners carefully.

LAZY MEN.

I can't abide to see men throw away their tools i' that way the minute the clock begins to strike, as if they took no pleasure i' their work, and was afraid o' doing a stroke too much. . . . I hate to see a man's arms drop down as if he was shot before the clock's fairly struck, just as if he'd never a bit o' pride and delight in's work. The very grindstone 'ull go on turning a bit after you loose it.

G. ELIOT.



If you employ your money in doing good, you put it out to the best interest.



We cannot study Nature profoundly without bringing ourselves into communion with the spirit of art, which pervades and fills the universe.

PRESIDENT GARFIELD.



Never show that you suspect, nor accuse, till you have found that your suspicion was well founded.

FOUNDATIONS

The foundation of domestic happiness is faith in the virtue of woman; the foundation of political happiness is confidence in the integrity of man; the foundation of happiness, temporal and eternal, is reliance on the goodness of God.

LANDOR.



The life of man is a journey, a journey that must be travelled, however bad the roads and the accommodation. If in the beginning it is found dangerous, narrow, and difficult, it must either grow better in the end, or we shall by custom learn to bear it in equanimity.



There is no trouble, but it might be worse.



The true hero is the great wise man of duty. He whose soul is armed by truth and supported by the smile of God, he who meets life's perils with a cautious but tranquil spirit, gathers strength by facing its storms.

H. BUSHNELL.

THOUGHT

Across the tense chords
Thought runs before words,
Brighter than dew,
And keener than swords.
Whence it cometh,
And whither it goes,
All may conjecture,
But no man knows.
It ebbs and flows
In the dancing of the leaves,
The set of summer eyes,
The scent of the violets, the secret of
the rose.

R. H. STODDARD.



The least flower, with a brimming
cup, may stand and share its dewdrop
with another near.



Creation is God's great and inexhaus-
tible library which He has set up for
the patient human student.



No man ever yet became great by
imitation.

DR. JOHNSON.

EVERY-DAY CHEERFULNESS

The hardest thing is to keep cheerful under the little stings that come from uncongenial surroundings, the very insignificance of which adds to their power to annoy, because they cannot be wrestled with and overcome, as in the case of larger hurts. Some disagreeable habit in one to whom we may owe respect and duty, and which is a constant irritation to our sense of the fitness of things, may demand of us a greater moral force to keep the spirit serene than an absolute wrong committed against us. In the one case endurance is all that is possible; in the other we may sometimes rightfully fight—and there is a world of comfort in the powers of action.



In a calm sea every man is a pilot.



He is the wisest man of men who, as
the outcome of his thought,
Has learned to know for sober sooth
in Wisdom's eyes his worth is
naught.

HORACE.

WHAT TO KNOW

It is advisable that a man should know at least three things:—First, where he is; secondly, where he is going; thirdly, what he had best do under the circumstances.

J. RUSKIN.



Live purely, work diligently, do good to all around thee.

Let each moment on the wing fly as the honey-bee of duty.

M. TUPPER.



We lose the peace of years when we hunt after the rapture of moments. Hope never affords more joy than in affliction. It is on a watery cloud that the sun paints those curious and beautiful colours in the rainbow.

GURNALL.



The advantage of living does not consist in the length of days, but in the right improvement of them. As many days as we pass without doing some good are so many days entirely lost.

MONTAIGNE.

THE LIFE TO LIVE

So should we live that every hour
May fall as falls the natural flower,
A self-reviving thing of power;

That every thought and every deed
May hold within itself a seed
Of future good, and future need;

Esteeming sorrow, whose employ
Is to develop, not destroy,
Far better than a barren joy.

LORD HOUGHTON.



There are three classes of ignorance:
to know nothing, to know things only
partly, and to know such things as
one ought not to know.



It is the first step in wrong-doing that
leads to our undoing.



Precepts or maxims are of great
weight, and a few useful ones at hand
do more toward a happy life than
whole volumes that we know not
where to find.

SENECA.

MAN'S HUNGER

Men are hungry everywhere, and
some compel the body to make a
swine's feast for the comfort of the
Godlike soul.



All ye who weep, come unto One—
Who weeps:

All ye that suffer come to One—Who
cures.

All trembling hearts, be still—He pity
keeps.

All passers by, oh tarry!—He endures.

V. HUGO.



Look in a man for what he might be,
and you will have more pity than
contempt for what he is.



It is in those acts called "trivialities"
that the seeds of joy are for ever
wasted, until men and women look
round with haggard faces at the de-
vastation their own waste has made,
and say the earth bears no harvest of
sweetness—calling their denial know-
ledge.

G. ELIOT.

THE COMING OF SPRING

A winter over is like a trouble gone!
it has had its mercies and its comforts,
its fire-side joys and its songs
in the night, as well as its sighs and
tears; its rain and its cold, its storms
and its fogs. But we are glad when
it is over, and again we feel the warm
breath of spring. Spring which comes
and gladdens the human heart as well
as all nature, making the world ring
with its resurrection joy, its unutter-
able promise of coming good! The
air is laden with the sense of hope
Let us offer to the God of all gladness
anew our hearts.



Man's cathedrals are most fair
'Neath yon heaven-blue day's abode;
But the nest of the birds in the air
Is the edifice of God.

V. HUGO.



Little words, not eloquent speeches;
little deeds, not miracles, nor battles,
nor one great heroic act or mighty
martyrdom, make up the true Chris-
tian life.

H. BONAR.

IN THE ROUGH

The marble was pure and white,
Though only a block at best;
But the artist with inward sight
Looked farther than all the rest,
And saw in the hard rough stone
The loveliest statue the sun shone on.

So he set to work with care,
And chiselled a form of grace—
A figure divinely fair,
With a tender, beautiful face;
But the blows were hard and fast
That brought from the marble that
work at last.

So I think that human lives
Must bear God's chisel keen,
If the spirit yearns and strives
For the better life unseen;
For men are only blocks at best
Till the chiselling brings out all the
rest.



I'll take the showers as they fall,
I will not vex my bosom;
Enough if at the end of all
A little garden blossom.

TENNYSON.



Use soft words and hard arguments.

A PLAN FOR EACH DAY

He who every morning plans the transactions of the day, and follows out that plan, carries on a thread which will guide him through the labyrinth of the most busy life. The orderly arrangement of his time is like a ray of light which darts itself through all his occupations. But where no plan is laid, where the disposal of time is surrendered merely to the chance of incidents, all things lie huddled together in one chaos, which admits neither of distribution nor review.



It is easy enough to destroy, and there are always destroyers enough. God alone can form and paint a flower; any foolish child can pick it to pieces.

J. M. GIBBON.



A beautiful form is better than a beautiful face; a beautiful behaviour is better than a beautiful form; it gives a higher pleasure than statues or pictures, it is the finest of the fine arts.

R. W. EMERSON.

IMMORTALITY AND NATURE

The flower, gathering light and dew into its glowing bosom, intermingles with them its own life-essence, and so bears a seed, around which it folds its faded petals as a shroud—falls into the dust, no longer to perish, but to live again. Why not so with the life culminated in man?

DR. MUNGER.

Better to be alone in the world, and utterly friendless, than to have sham friends and no sympathy.



Nothing can be great which is not right. Nothing which reason condemns can be suitable to the dignity of the human mind. To be driven by external motives from the path which our own heart approves, to give way to anything but conviction, to suffer the opinion of others to rule our choice, or overpower our resolves, is to submit tamely to the lowest and most ignominious slavery, and to resign the right of directing our own lives.

RAMBLER.

ART

In a lonely street of Florence, Michael Angelo found a fine block of marble imbedded in the mire. He dug about it, soiling his holiday attire, for, said he, "There's an angel in it!" He felt that it was his mission to let the angel out, and he did it.



If things were to be done twice, all would be wise.



Great and good thoughts are true wealth. They are fountains of living water. They are gems that always shine. They are impenetrable shields to protect the character. They are goodly apparel for the mind. They are right noble companions. They are fair angels of light. They are flowers of rich beauty and sweet fragrance. They are seeds of noble actions and noble institutions. They are moulds in which exalted characters are formed. They make good and great men. They are a nation's mightiest bulwarks. A great and good thought is a grand legacy to bequeath to the world.

SAD THINGS

If I list to sing of sad things oft,
It is that sad things in this life of
 breath
Are truest, sweetest, deepest. Tears
 bring forth
The richness of our natures, as the
 rain
Sweetens the smelling brier.

R. BUCHANAN.



Only a word of command, but it loses
 or wins the field;
Only a stroke of a pen, but a heart
 is broken or healed.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



The evening of life brings with it its
own lamp.



A man's virtues should be measured,
not by his occasional exertions, but
by the doings of his ordinary life.



Conversation enriches the understand-
ing, but solitude is the school of
genius.

QUIET CULTURE

The outward shows of sky and earth,
Of hill and valley, he has viewed;
And impulses of deeper birth
Have come to him in solitude.

In common things that round us lie
Some random truths he can impart;
The harvest of a quiet eye,
That broods and sleeps on his own
heart.

W. WORDSWORTH.



The busy fingers fly, the eyes may
see
Only the glancing needle which
they hold,
But all my life is blossoming inwardly,
And every breath is like a litany;
While through each labour, like a
thread of gold,
Is woven the sweet consciousness of
Thee.

S. COOLIDGE.



Conduct is the great profession.
Behaviour is the perpetual revealing
of us. What a man *does* tells us what
he *is*.

F. D. HUNTINGTON.

THE BRIGHT SIDE

I'm no reformer; for I see more light
Than darkness in the world; mine
 eyes are quick
To catch the first dim radiance of the
 dawn,
And slow to note the cloud that
 threatens storm;
The fragrance and the beauty of the
 rose
Delight me so, slight thought I give
 the thorn;
And the sweet music of the lark's
 dear song
Stays longer with me than the night-
 hawk's cry;
And, even in this great throe of pain
 called life,
Well worth the price of anguish.
 I detect
More good than evil in humanity;
Love lights more fires than hate ex-
 tinguishes,
And men grow better as the world
 grows old.



When a man is faithful and true in
small things, depend upon it that he
will be faithful and true in great
things. Great principles depend upon
small details.

THE HUMAN RACE

The human race may, for practical purposes, be divided into three parts: 1, honest men, who mean to do right, and do it; 2, knaves, who mean to do wrong, and do it; 3, fools, who mean to do whichever of the two is pleasanter.

C. KINGSLEY.



We rejoice in the joy of friends as much as we do in our own, and we are equally grieved at their sorrows. Wherefore the wise man will feel towards his friend as he does towards himself, and whatever labour he would encounter with a view to his own pleasure, he will encounter also for the sake of that of his friend.

CICERO.



Say "No" when it is hard to say it, for that is usually the right time. The person that cannot say "No," because he dislikes to offend, quickly becomes the tool of the unscrupulous. It is better to be strong than it is to be popular, and to keep strong one may be obliged to sacrifice a temporary popularity.

NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITY

To those who have opportunities of culture placed within their reach, these are the instruments of the Divine discipline. It is part of that discipline to put large opportunities in men's hands, and to leave it to themselves whether they will use or neglect them. There shall be no coercion to make us turn them to account. Occasions of learning and self-improvement come, stay with us for a while, then pass—and the wheels of time shall not be reversed to bring them back once they are gone. If we neglect them, we shall be permanent losers for this life; we cannot say how much we may be losers hereafter. But, if we do what we can to use them while they are granted, we shall have learnt one lesson of the heavenly discipline, and shall be, we may hope, the better prepared for the others, whether of action or endurance, which are yet to come.

PRINCIPAL SHAIRP.



Do not be afraid of *ridicule*. Nine-tenths of all the bad things in the world are done because not to do them would be held ridiculous.

REVERENCE

In reverence is the chief joy and power of life: Reverence for what is pure and bright in your own youth; for what is true and tried in the age of others; for all that is gracious among the living, great among the dead, and marvellous in the powers that cannot die.

J. RUSKIN.



The position of a single tree may determine the state of a mighty forest.



The alternations of the seasons: the joyous spring decked in her bright fresh garniture green, the gaudy multiflora of summer, the luxuriant fruits of the gorgeous autumn, and the cold beauty of winter, have each their peculiar charms to fascinate the eye and affect the heart.

F. SAUNDERS.



How can we expect a harvest of thought who have not had a seed-time of character?

H. D. THOREAU.

SUBLIME REALITIES

There are two things which fill me with wonder: the starry heavens above me, and the moral law within me. And as the starry heavens above me teach that my body is related to vast spheres of matter which roll beyond my ken, so the moral law within me teaches that my soul is related to a universe of goodness, and beauty, and truth, which needs another heaven than the one above me, and a higher world than our sun warms.

KANT.



Surely there is something in the unruffled calm of nature that overawes our little anxieties and doubts; the sight of the deep-blue sky and the clustering stars above seems to impart a quiet to the mind.



I take great comfort in God. I think He loves us, and would not let us get at the match-box, if He were not sure that the framework of the universe is fire-proof.

J. R. LOWELL.

FORGIVENESS

The fairest action of our human life
Is scorning to revenge an injury;
For who forgives without a further
strife

His adversary's heart to him doth
tie.

And 'tis a firmer conquest, truly said,
To win the heart than overthrow the
head.

LADY E. CAREW.



What an interpreter of Scripture is
affliction! How many stars in its
heaven shine out brightly in the night
of sorrow and pain, which were un-
perceived or overlooked in the garish
day of prosperity.

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.



Do not express contempt for, nor
pass by, small things. Notice every
little thing which presents itself to
you, for from small things proceed
large things. Notice, that by small
things many of our great men found
out large things. Thus Newton dis-
covered the law of gravitation by
the falling of an apple before his feet.

S. SMILES.

CONTENT

The fountain of content must spring up in the mind; and he who has so little knowledge of human nature as to seek happiness by changing everything but his own disposition, will waste his life in fruitless efforts, and multiply the griefs which he purposes to remove.

DR. JOHNSON.



Surely there is nothing in the world, short of the most undivided reciprocal attachment, that has such power over the workings of the human heart as the mild sweetness of nature.



Consider well your action;
What's done you can't recall;
No use to pull the trigger,
And then try to stop the ball!



No plummets of the heaviest human importunity can so weigh down God's clock of time as to make it strike one minute before His hour be come.

T. FULLER.

OUR WORK

The sphere of beneficent activity was never so large. To infuse the leaven of purity into the disordered masses; to thaw the death-frost from the heart of the misanthrope; to make the treacherous one faithful to duty; to open the world's dim eye to the majesty of conscience; to gather and instruct the orphans bereft of a father's blessing and of a mother's prayer; to care for the outcast and abandoned, who have drunk in iniquity with their mother's milk—whom the Priest and the Levite have alike passed by, and who have been forced, in the hotbed of poverty, into premature luxuriance of evil—there is labour which may employ a man's whole lifetime and his whole soul.

DR. PUNSHON.



It is a good and safe rule to sojourn in every place as if you meant to spend your life there, never omitting an opportunity of doing a kindness, or speaking a true word, or making a friend. Seeds thus sown by the wayside often bring forth an abundant harvest.

W. JOY.

DIVINE UPLIFTING

You thought, by efforts of your own,
To take, at last, each jarring tone
Out of your life, till all should meet
In one majestic music sweet;
And deemed that, in your own heart's
ground,
The root of good was to be found;
But, thanks to heaven, it is not so;
That root a richer soil doth know
Than our poor hearts could e'er
supply.

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.



There is a great art in accepting
things as they are and making the
best of them, and it is an art worth
cultivating.



If faith be a precious pearl, a good
conscience is the cabinet that con-
tains it.



I know indeed that wealth is good;
But lowly roof and simple food,
With love that hath no doubt,
Are more than gold without.

J. G. WHITTIER.

THE BALM OF NATURE

If thou art worn and hard beset
With sorrows that thou would'st forget—

If thou would'st read a lesson that
will keep

Thy heart from fainting, and thy soul
from sleep,

Go to the woods and hills—no tears
Dim the sweet look that Nature wears.

H. W. LONGFELLOW.



As I approve of a youth that has
something of the old man in him, so
I am no less pleased with an old man
that has something of the youth. He
that follows this rule may be old in
body but never so in mind.

CICERO.



Write your name in kindness, love,
and mercy on the hearts of thousands
you come in contact with year by
year; you will never be forgotten.
No; your name, your deeds, will be
as legible on the hearts you leave
behind as the stars on the brow of
the evening.

DR. CHALMERS.

A LITTLE

Accept it, and make it the motto of your life.

A little moderation is wealth and fortune: a condition that promises the most peaceful life, free from anxiety for the future, doubtless requiring daily duties, but permitting many innocent enjoyments.

A little moderation in our desires, contentment with what we possess, making the most of it, and repressing all vain dreams of a more brilliant position, a more extended reputation, a more famous name.

A little—the affection of a heart devoted to duty, and kindling joy in the family circle composed of kindred to love, friends to cheer, poor to succour, hearts to strengthen, sufferings to alleviate.

A little—a taste for all that is beautiful: books, works of art, music, not making us idly dream of fame, but simply providing enjoyment for the mind, all the more keen as the daily toil renders the occasions rare.

E.L.F.B.

COUNSEL

Meet every man honestly; seek to know him; and you will find that in those points in which he differs from you rests his power to instruct you, enlarge you, and do you good.

TITCOMB.



The ear, and the eye, are the mind's receivers; but the tongue is only busied in expending the treasure received.

BISHOP HALL.



"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men." In doing good, our obligations are limited only by our opportunities. We make our mistakes in not recognising them. One man always has the opportunity; another never seems to find it.



All smat'ers are more brisk and pert
Than those that understand an art;
As little sparkles shine more bright
Than glowing coals that give them
light.

S. BUTLER.

HOME LIFE

It has been well said that a single bitter word may disquiet an entire family for a whole day. One surly glance casts a gloom over the household; while a smile, like a gleam of sunshine, may light up the darkest and weariest hours. Like unexpected flowers, springing up along our dusty road, full of fresh fragrance and beauty, so kind words and gentle acts and sweet dispositions make glad the home where peace and blessing dwell. No matter how humble the abode, if it be thus garnished with grace and sweetened with kindness and smiles, the heart will turn longingly toward it from all the tumults of the world, and home, if it be ever so homely, will be the dearest spot beneath the circuit of the sun.

CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.



Do not flatter yourself that friendship authorises you to say disagreeable things to your intimates. On the contrary, the nearer you come into a relation with a person the more necessary do tact and courtesy become.

ELEMENTS OF HAPPINESS

Happiness consists 1. In the exercise of the social affections. 2. In the exercise of our faculties, either of body or mind, in pursuit of some engaging end. 3. Upon the prudent constitution of the habits. 4. In health.

PALEY.



In reverence is the chief joy and power of life: reverence for what is pure and bright in your own youth; for what is true and tried in the age of others; for all that is gracious among the living, great among the dead, and marvellous in the powers that cannot die.

J. RUSKIN.



There is more saving virtue in one quick stern reproof than in an hour's aimless scolding.



Set no value on thoughts which cannot be translated into deeds. The labours of many men seem to be as narrow as the room in which they are performed.

PURE PLEASURES

'Tis sweet to hear
At midnight, on the blue and moon-
lit deep,
The song and oar of Adria's gon-
dolier,
By distance mellow'd, o'er the
waters sweep;
'Tis sweet to see the evening star
appear;
'Tis sweet to listen as the night
winds creep
From leaf to leaf; 'tis sweet to view
on high
The rainbow, based on ocean, span
the sky.
'Tis sweet to hear the watch-dog's
honest bark
Bay deep-mouth'd welcome as we
draw near home;
'Tis sweet to know there is an eye
will mark
Our coming, and look brighter when
we come:
'Tis sweet to be awaken'd by the lark,
Or lull'd by falling waters; sweet
the hum
Of bees, the voice of girls, the song
of birds,
The lisp of children, and their earliest
words.

LORD BYRON.

HUMILITY FOR OTHERS

Humility is a virtue all preach, some practise and everybody is content to hear. The master thinks it good doctrine for his servant, the laity for the clergy, and the clergy for the laity.

SELDEN.



The greatest works that have been done have been done by the ones. The hundreds do not often do much, the companies never do; it is the units, just the single individuals, that after all are the power and the might.

C. H. SPURGEON.



A man who does his duty in despite of all outward contradiction, and who reverences his conscience so greatly as that to preserve it unharmed, he will face any difficulty and submit to any penalty—he is a great man.

DR. FERGUSON.



Knowledge must be gained by ourselves. Mankind may supply us with facts; but the results, even if they agree with previous ones, must be the work of our own minds.

BEAUTY

Beauty is a fairy; sometimes she hides herself in a flower-cup, or under a leaf, or creeps into the old ivy, and plays hide-and-seek with the sunbeams, or haunts some ruined spot, or laughs out of a bright young face.

G. A. SALA.



Every resistance to temptation lessens the power of the tempter, and renders the path of duty more easy.



The human race is divided into two classes—those who go ahead and do something, and those who sit still and inquire, “Why wasn’t it done the other way?”

O. W. HOLMES.



Satire is a sort of glass wherein beholders generally discover everybody’s face but their own; which is the chief reason for that kind of reception it meets with in the world, and that so very few are offended with it.

DEAN SWIFT.

GRATITUDE

No tax is gratitude;
It is the bounteous harvest of the
heart
In which was sown from friendly
open hand,
That benefit the sower soon forgot.
Gratitude! it is love's own memory.



Friendship, like everything else, is tested by results. If you wish to know the value of any friendship, you must ask what it has done for you and what it has made you.

J. STALKER.



"There is time enough for everything in the course of the year," says Lord Chesterfield, "if you do but one thing at once; but there is not time enough in the year if you will do two things at a time."



If thou would'st preach to men,
preach with thy life;
Our words are but a portion of our
speech,
Aye, and the smallest often.

OPPOSITION

A certain amount of opposition is a great help to a man. Kites rise against the wind. Even a head-wind is better than none. No man ever worked his passage anywhere in a dead calm. Let no man, therefore, wax pale because of opposition.



The cross is easier to him who takes it up than to him who drags it along.

J. E. VAUX.



The more people do the more they can do; he who does nothing renders himself incapable of doing anything; whilst we are executing one work we are preparing ourselves for undertaking another.



A scrip on my back and a staff in my
hand,
I march on in haste through an
enemy's land;
The road may be rough but it cannot
be long,
And I'll smooth it with hope and
cheer it with song.

DOING GOOD

Do good, without thinking of to whom. Whoever in the darkness lighteth another with a lamp, lighteth himself also; and the light is not part of ourselves, it is put into our hands by Him who hath appointed the suns their courses.



The peculiar charm of a country life in the society of nature consists in this—that we see the different seasons of the year roll past our eyes.

HUMBOLDT.



An ounce of mirth, with some degree of grace, will serve God further than a pound of sadness.

T. FULLER.



Nobility of character manifests itself in loopholes when it is not provided with large doors.

M. E. WILKINS.



J A sturdy friend is like a good coat which can be worn in all weathers.

SECOND THOUGHTS

It is often said that second thoughts are best—so they are in matters of judgment, but not in matters of conscience. In matters of duty, first thoughts are commonly best—they have more in them of the voice of God.

J. H. NEWMAN.



He who passes by an opportunity to do good in order to find a better one will search in vain.



There's something funny in every little stupid bit of life, if you turn it the right way, like sparkles in a stone.



There is always hope in a man that actually and earnestly works; in idleness alone is there perpetual despair.

T. CARLYLE.



Accustom yourself always to look at the bright side of things, and never make a fuss about trifles.

FRIENDSHIP

The highest of all examples of friendship is found in Jesus; and His behaviour in this beautiful relationship is the very mirror in which all true friendship must see and measure itself.

J. STALKER.



When Aristotle was asked what a man could gain by telling a falsehood, he replied, "Never to be credited when he tells the truth."



What wonders love can do! How the most trivial duty, the meanest, the most loathsome, touched by love's fine hand, becomes a service all reverent and beautiful.



The general superintendence of a garden has been repeatedly found favourable to health, by leading to frequent exercise in the open-air, and that communing with nature, which is equally refreshing to the heart.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.

MORNING

With the first light of the morning say to your waking heart, "Behold another day, to be divided between the Giver, your own improvement, and the good of those with whom you are associated."



By nothing does God bless His creatures more than by the steadiness of the order of nature and the regularity of the seasons.



The more a diamond is cut the brighter it sparkles; and in what seems hard dealing God has no end in view but to perfect His people's graces.

DR. GUTHRIE.



There can be no doubt, that if the arts of cultivation were abandoned for only a few years, all the annual varieties of plants in our gardens would disappear and be replaced by a few original wild forms.

G. LINDLEY.

REST

Rest is as necessary a part of life as work. Even for work's sake it is necessary; for it restores the worker to himself, putting him in possession of all his powers, and enabling him to do his best.

J. STALKER.



Idleness is the mother of many wanton children: they that do nothing are in the ready way to do worse than nothing; it was not for nothing that we were called out of nothing.

J. MASON



Blessed be he who gives to the poor, albeit only a penny; doubly blessed be he who adds kind words to his gift. Say not, because thou canst not do everything, "I will do nothing."



You do not imagine that when God put us here He banished us from Himself? . . . The thought of God fills me so full of life that I want to go and do something for everybody.

G. MACDONALD.

HOW TO LIVE

Live not for selfish aims. Live to shed joy on others. Thus best shall your own happiness be secured; for no joy is ever given freely forth that does not have a quick echo in the giver's own heart.

H. W. BEECHER.



Death opens the gate of fame and shuts the gate of envy after it; it unlooses the chain of the captive, and puts the bondsman's task into another man's hands.

STERNE.



Use what talent you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there but those which sing best.



Silence is the refuge of the deepest emotions.



Half the misery in the world comes of want of courage to speak and to hear the truth plainly and in a spirit of love.

ADVICE

If thou wishest to be wise,
Keep these lines before thine eyes:
What thou say'st—how, beware;
Of whom, to whom, when and where.



If you lie down, the world will go out
of its way to drive you over; but if
you stand up and look severe it will
give you half the road at least.



Beware of the man who is always
suspicious of everybody else's mo-
tives. The chances are that he has
some motives himself.



No sunshine without shadow; no
pleasure without pain; no riches
without sorrow; no sorrow without
gain.



True merriment may be distinguished
from false by the fact that it bears
reflection; we can think of it with
pleasure next day and next week.

PREJUDICES.

Prejudices are like the knots in the glass of our windows. They alter the shape of everything that we choose to look at through them; they make straight things crooked and everything indistinct.



True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation.



He that waits for repentance waits for that which cannot be had as long as it is waited for. It is absurd for a man to wait for that which he himself has to do.



The body is sooner well dressed than the soul.



Wisdom to gold prefer; for 'tis much
less
To make our fortune than our happiness.

YOUNG.

ANGER

Anger is the most impotent passion that accompanies the mind of man; it effects nothing it goes about, and hurts the man who is possessed by it more than any other against whom it is directed.

CLARENDON.



The lonely tree stands more exposed to the tempest than that which is encircled by its fellows.



Life is larger than understanding; life is grander than logic.

DR. PARKER.



Sweep first before your own door before you sweep the doorsteps of your neighbours.

SWEDISH PROVERB.



In the depth of the sea the water is still; the heaviest grief is borne in silence; the deepest love flows through the eyes and touch; the purest joy is unspeakable.

HUMBLE PIE

Few things are so unpleasant to eat as "humble pie," and it is a brave man who will sharpen his knife and hand up his plate for a slice, rather than let a grudge continue or an old sore keep open.



Make every day of your life count for something.



Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well-tried before you give them your confidence.



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